Title: Regarding suicide by farmers in Karnataka due to loss of crops and debt burden.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (MANGALORE): Hon. Speaker, Sir, with a very heavy heart, I am bringing to the notice of the Government the sad plight of farmers. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You should listen to him.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : My friends, please hear me.

Sir, with a very heavy heart, I am bringing to the notice of the Government the sad and shocking incident of suicidal deaths committed by the farmers in the State of Karnataka. Just day before yesterday, two farmers committed suicide there. The day before that, two other farmers committed suicide. Like this, within the stretch of one full year, 165 farmers in Karnataka have committed suicide. No doubt, it is said that they committed suicide on account of the severe drought and they could not bear the heavy debt burden. I have no dispute on that point. What I would like to request, through you, the Government of India is this. The Government of India has magnanimously, going out of the way, provided 7.25 lakh metric tonnes of free food to the State of Karnataka. (*Interruptions*) Further, a sum of Rs.286 crore has been given by the Government of India for taking up drought relief works. It is so unfortunate that the State Government of Karnataka has exhibited a very callous attitude to the problem. Primarily, it is the responsibility of the State Government to tackle the drought conditions. They will have to effectively undertake the relief measures. (*Interruptions*) Shri Jalappa, I am with you. You know about that. I would request the Government of India to get a report on all these incidents and also rush further relief to the affected people of Karnataka. I am only requesting the senior leaders sitting here Shri Shivraj Patel and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi to consider this. In the year 2001, a similar incident occurred in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

The hon. Leader of the Opposition Shrimati Sonia Gandhi rushed there and expressed her sympathies. After giving some compensation from the Congress Party fund, she went to Bidar in Karnataka and made a categorical statement that if the farmers are driven to a situation to commit suicide in any State, the concerned State Government has no moral authority to continue in power. Now, I would like to know from the hon. Leader of the Opposition as to what is her stand today. 165 farmers have committed suicide in Karnataka. Primarily it is the responsibility of the State Government to provide relief to them. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise a discussion under any device provided in the rules. Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Sir, the KPCC President has gone on record saying that the party MLAs and Ministers have totally neglected the relief works. (*Interruptions*) In spite of the Government of India giving so much money they were not able to provide relief to the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: The house stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

13.16 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.